

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/658,742	LYNN ET AL.
	Examiner Kyle R. Stork	Art Unit 2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 8 March 2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-12 and 14-19.
3. The drawings filed on 11 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20050518.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Gustafson, registration number 52978, on 18 July 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A layout editing system for arranging page structural elements in an electronic document, comprising:
 - a display device;
 - a first supply device to provide an electronic document having a plurality of first attraction points arranged on a grid to the display device;
 - a second supply device to provide a page structural element on the electronic document, the page structural element having a plurality of second attraction points to adjust a position of the page structural element;
 - a movement device to move said page structural element without deformation to a desired location in said electronic document in response to a manual user operation; and
 - an attraction state control to control attraction of the plurality of second attraction

points that can be activated so that only a single one of the plurality of second attraction points is set as attractive to snap the page structural element to a first attraction point while said page structural element is being moved by said movement device and the remaining second attraction points of the plurality of second attraction points are set as non-attractive.

2. (Original) The layout editing system of claim 1, wherein said movement device comprises a pointing device, and said page structural element is kept in a held state by keeping said pointing device's button pressed down.
3. Cancelled
4. Cancelled
5. (Original) The layout editing system of claim 4, wherein said attractive operation mode setting mechanism comprises a predetermined specified key on the keyboard, and said second attractive operation mode is set by holding said specified key pressed down.
6. (Previously Presented) The layout editing system of claim 1, wherein said movement device comprises a cursor displayed on said display device, and said attraction state control activates only a single second attraction point nearest to said cursor attractive when said page structural element is being held by said movement device.

7. (Currently Amended) A layout editing method for arranging page structural elements in an electronic document, comprising:

displaying an electronic document having a plurality of first attraction points arranged on a grid;

displaying a page structural element on the electronic document, the page structural element having a plurality of second attraction points;

holding said page structural element and activating a single one of the plurality of second attraction points such that only a single second attraction point nearest to a cursor is in an attractive state, ~~and wherein~~ when a button of a pointing device linked to the cursor is pressed down at the a time of detecting the cursor position; and

when said pointing device is operated in a holding state and said cursor is moved, linking the page structural element to movement of said cursor and moving said page structural element without deformation such that the single second attraction point is set as attractive to snap the page structural element to a first attraction point and the remaining second attraction points of the plurality of second attraction points are set as non-attractive.

8. (Original) The layout editing method of claim 7, further comprising the step of selecting a first attractive operation mode that sets a state of attracting to all of said plurality of first attraction points, and a second attractive operation mode that sets a state of attracting only to a selected predetermined pattern within said plurality of first attraction points.

9. (Original) The layout editing method of claim 8, wherein said first or second attractive operation mode is selected depending on whether a predetermined specified key on the keyboard is pressed down or released respectively.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a computer-readable storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions for causing a computer to:

display an electronic document having a plurality of first attraction points arranged on a grid;

display a page structural element on the electronic document, the page structural element having a plurality of second attraction points;

hold said page structural element and activating activate a single one of the plurality of second attraction points such that only a single second attraction point nearest to a cursor is in an attractive state, wherein when a button of a pointing device linked to the cursor is pressed down at a time of detecting the cursor position; and

when said pointing device is operated in a holding state and said cursor is moved, link the page structural element to movement of said cursor and move said page structural element without deformation such that the single second attraction point is set as attractive to snap the page structural element to a first attraction point and the remaining second attraction points of the plurality of second attraction points are set as non-attractive.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising instructions to cause the computer to select one of a first attractive operation mode and a second attractive operation mode, the first attractive operation mode setting a state of attracting to all of said plurality of first attraction points, the second attractive operation mode setting a state of attracting only to a selected predetermined pattern within said plurality of first attraction points.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first or second attractive operation mode is selected depending on whether a predetermined specified key on the keyboard is pressed down or released respectively.

13. (Currently Amended) A layout editing system for arranging page structural elements in an electronic document, comprising:

- a display;
- a memory that stores an electronic document and a page structural element to be output on the display, the electronic document having a plurality of first attraction points arranged on a grid, the page structural element having a plurality of attractive second attraction points;
- a movement device; and
- a processor coupled to the memory, the display and the movement device, the processor configured to adjust a position of the page structural element, without deforming the page structural element, on the display in response to user operation of the movement device such that at least one of the plurality of first attraction points tends to align with at least one of the plurality of second attraction points, the processor further configured to control the attraction of the plurality of second attraction points that can be activated such that only a single one of the plurality of second attraction points is set as attractive to snap the page structural element to a first attraction point and the remaining second attraction points of the plurality of second attraction points are set as non-attractive while said page structural element is being moved by the movement device.

14. (Previously Presented) The layout editing system of claim 13, wherein the movement device comprises a pointing device, and the processor is configured to cause the only one second attraction point to be selected when a button on the pointing device is pressed.

15. Cancelled

16. (Original) The layout editing system of claim 13, further comprising a keyboard, and wherein the processor selects one of the first and second attractive operation modes based on user input on the keyboard.

17. (Previously Presented) The layout editing system of claim 13, wherein said movement device comprises a cursor displayed on said display device, and the processor is configured to activate only a single second attraction point nearest to said cursor attractive when the page structural element is being held by said movement device.

18. (Previously Presented) The layout editing system of claim 13, wherein the page structural element is demarcated by a frame.

19. (Previously Presented) The layout editing system of claim 18, wherein said movement device comprises a cursor displayed on the display device, and the attraction state control activates only a single second attraction point nearest to the cursor

attractive when the cursor is positioned inside the page structural element frame and the page structural element is being held by the movement device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle R. Stork whose telephone number is (571) 272-4130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kyle Stork
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2178

krs



STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER